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EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Bill Naifeh on 10/26/04.

3. The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1, line 8:

----, wherein the second segmented message is a Signaling Connection Control Part (SCCP) message including a Segmented Number Field coded with a value indicating the number of segmented messages remaining to be received by the node --- had been inserted after the word "message".

Claim 5, line 9:

----, wherein the second segmented message is a Signaling Connection Control Part (SCCP) message including a Segmented Number Field coded with a value indicating the number of segmented messages remaining to be received by the second node --- had been inserted after the word "message".

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Claim 8, line 1:

"7" had been changed to --- 5 ---

Claim 9, line 11:

--- , wherein the second segmented message is a Signaling Connection Control Part (SCCP) message including a Segmented Number Field coded with a value indicating the number of segmented messages remaining to be received by the second node --- had been inserted after the word "message".

Claims 3, 7 and 15 had been canceled.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claims 1-2, 4-6, 8-14, 16-19, the prior art fails to teach or suggest a node/system or method supporting message transport and segmentation in a communications network having a plurality of nodes, comprising "a memory including a database for storing a plurality of segmentation support capability test results, wherein the memory further includes a program module adapted to receive a second segmented message, a second segmentation support test message, and a second segmentation support test message, wherein the second segmented message is a Signaling Connection Control Part (SCCP) message including a Segment Number Field coded with a value indicating the number of segmented messages remaining to be received by the node," in combination with other limitations, as specified in the independent claims 1, 5, 9.

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Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phuongchau Ba Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-3148. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Huy Vu can be reached on 571-272-3155. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

**DUCHO
PRIMARY EXAMINER**



**Phuongchau Ba Nguyen
Examiner
Art Unit 2665**